



**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS/ELECTION ADMINISTRATION
611 OLD POST ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06824**

ROGER V. AUTUORI
REPUBLICAN REGISTRAR OF VOTERS/ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR

March 7, 2015

Testimony in offering alternative to H.B. 6904; An Act Concerning Appointment of Registrar of Voters and S.B. 1051; An Act Strengthening Connecticut's Elections

Submitted by Roger V. Autuori on behalf of himself

To Government Administration and Elections Committee Public Hearing March 9, 2015

Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutlia, Ranking Member McLaughlin, members of the committee, I am submitting testimony as someone who has been associated with the Fairfield Registrar of Voters office since 1984, having served as a moderator, lead machine mechanic, Deputy Registrar, office clerk and since November of 2007, Republican Registrar of Voters.

Times have changed, Political parties have changed and personalities involved with elections have changed. I would say in some cases including my home town not for the better. But I do not believe two bills that have been brought before you with good intentions, will do anything to make the present conditions better.

You cannot have two people run one office. I don't see it happening in federal, state, or municipal agencies or even in private entities and realistically it has never happen in any Registrar's office. Somebody took the lead and somebody backed down. We got along for the sake of the town, the office and the voters. We at least tried to act like responsible adults.

We need to infuse the election system with responsibility. My proposal today is to have the voters be responsible for selecting the Registrars that will run the office. The highest vote getter will become the Registrar-in-charge. The also-rans will become the Deputy or deputies and be responsible to the Registrar in charge.

Second the Registrar in charge will be responsible to the Secretary of the State who will have direct control over the Registrars in their duties. We have to revise Section 9-4 of the SOTS duties which none of the proposals before you do.

The election process in Connecticut is the most nuanced set of regulations that only Registrars really have seen and dealt with and they and the voters don't need another 200 pages on how to pick someone to run an election.

I hope the fact that my absence from your Committee hearing today does not falsely lessen my sincerity or the Committee's consideration of my proposal.

I thank the Committee members for their attention and dedication and I hope to be available to the committee in the future if you have any questions.

Roger V. Autuori